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THE "DE SOTO MAP." THIS IS A MODERN COPY OF A PEN-AND-INK-SKETCH MAP IN THE GENERAL ARCHIVE OF THE INDIES IN SEVILLE. THE ORIGINAL IS UNSIGNED AND UNDATED, BUT IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DRAWN BY THE SPANISH ROYAL CARTOGRAPHER ALONSO DE SANTA CRUZ, AMONG WHOSE PAPERS IT WAS ORIGINALLY FOUND. IT IS BELIEVED TO DATE AROUND 1544 AND IS THE EARLIEST KNOWN MAP GIVING ANY DETAIL ABOUT THE INTERIOR OF NORTH AMERICA. THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION WAS OBVIOUSLY ONE OR MORE OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE DE SOTO EXPEDITION. THE RENDERING OF THE COAST COMES FROM OTHER CONTEMPORARY SOURCES, AND THE AUTHOR HAS ATTEMPTED, WITH LIMITED SUCCESS, TO MATCH THE COASTAL RIVER MOUTHS AND BAYS TO THE RIVERS CROSSED IN THE INTERIOR BY DE SOTO'S ARMY. (COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION)

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